

## Newsletter ▪ January 2011



Did you know that 2011 marks the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Metropolitan Historical Commission? To celebrate this exciting milestone, each month we will feature a few historic preservation highlights from Nashville history.

January 27, 2006: Dedication ceremony for the Historic Marker honoring Albertine Maxwell held at the marker's location at West End Avenue and

Orleans Drive. The marker, sponsored by The Albertine Society, is marker #122 of the MHC's Historic Marker program, which began in 1967 to commemorate significant people, places and events in the city's past.

### **New! National Register of Historic Places Update**

Two Davidson County properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places in November 2010. Stone Hall, located at 1014 Stones River Road in Hermitage, was listed on November 17, and the Municipal Public Works Garage Industrial District was listed on November 29. Tara Mielnik of the MHC and Claudette Stager of the Tennessee Historical Commission prepared the nomination for Stone Hall. Katie Randall and Elizabeth Moore with the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University prepared the nomination for the Public Works Garages. Thank you to Tara, Claudette, Katie and Elizabeth for your diligent research! For more information about these properties, please visit our website to read the September 2010 issue of our newsletter: [www.nashville.gov/mhc](http://www.nashville.gov/mhc)

The next National Register State Review Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Tennessee Historical Commission, 2941 Lebanon Road.

### **New! Exploration Begins on a New Downtown Historic Zoning District**

Councilman Mike Jameson is scheduling a meeting to discuss a potential downtown Nashville historic zoning overlay. The meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 20th, 7:00 p.m. at the Downtown Presbyterian Church, 154 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North**. The area to be discussed is loosely bound by Church Street, Union Street, Third Avenue North and Fifth Avenue North.

The potential downtown district includes several icons from Nashville's history, including Printers Alley, the Arcade, the Downtown Presbyterian Church, the Southern Turf Building, Noel Hotel, St. Cloud Corner, the Civil Rights sit-in locations along Fifth Avenue North, and several others. These emblems of our heritage are certainly worthy of preservation, but efforts must be balanced by concerns for property owners' rights. Accordingly, Councilman Jameson is working with the Metro Historical Commission and others to create an overlay that allows flexibility for property owners, supports new development, and emphasizes potential financial incentives.

Communities in more than two thousand US cities use preservation zoning overlays as a tool to protect their unique architectural character. Preservation zoning overlays do not affect the use of a property or change base zoning but instead direct exterior changes with design review. Metropolitan Nashville currently protects its historic resources with 21 districts and 32 landmark properties. (Listing in the National Register of Historic Places is honorary and alone does little to protect historic resources.)

When an overlay is established, design guidelines are also adopted. The

guidelines are criteria and standards, developed jointly by the MHZC and property owners, to use in determining the architectural compatibility of proposed projects. By state and local legislations, design guidelines for historic overlays must be in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*—criteria developed by the National Park Service and used by private and public preservation organizations throughout the country.

A preservation zoning overlay could be a valuable tool for the downtown areas since it supports economic sustainability. One example of how this is done is the protection of investment in a property. Preservation zoning overlays have been proven to maintain, and in most cases, increase property values.

Preservation zoning overlays can also protect our share of the tourism market by safeguarding the sites and areas people enjoy visiting. Here in Tennessee, tourism is the second largest industry, generating 10.3 billion in direct revenues during 2003, and historic sites are the second largest tourist attraction in TN.

**In short, preservation is good business.**

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## **GET INVOLVED**

### **New! Call for Nominations: Vernacular Architecture Forum Advocacy Award**

The Vernacular Architecture Forum (VAF) encourages and supports citizen efforts to protect our vernacular heritage. The VAF does so in part through its Award for Advocacy, which was established to recognize exemplary efforts and achievements by an individual or group advocating for the preservation of vernacular architecture or landscapes. The Advocacy Committee and Board of the VAF are seeking nominations for this award, to be honored at the annual meeting in **Falmouth, Jamaica, May 31-June 5, 2011**. Although the VAF welcomes nominations for those who are active in North America, the organization is especially interested in recognizing vernacular advocacy in Jamaica or the Caribbean. Please see the VAF website for more information about the organization and this award.

[www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org/awards/advocacy.html](http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org/awards/advocacy.html)

The **2011 Deadline** for nominations is **January 31, 2011**. The award winner will be announced at the annual conference. Please send your nomination electronically, with a brief discussion of the advocacy work, to Marianne Hurley, Chair, VAF Advocacy Committee: [mhurley@parks.ca.gov](mailto:mhurley@parks.ca.gov)

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## **CONFERENCES, TOURS AND EVENTS**

**Closing Soon! Tennesseans: A People's Legacy**

*Now through January 16, 2011*

*Tennessee State Museum*

*505 Deaderick Street*

*Museum hours: Tues-Sat 10-5; Sun 1-5 (closed Mondays)*

*Tennesseans: A People's Legacy* highlights some of the people who have contributed to the state's history, culture and development. Through objects, art and photographs, the exhibition presents stories from a sampling of individuals. Many of the items on display are from the museum's permanent collection and are rarely seen by the public. The exhibit includes items as varied as a 2006 protest quilt, a Charles Wilson Peale portrait of John Sevier (Tennessee's first governor), Alvin York's Medal of Honor, and a 1930s stage costume worn by Grace Moore, "the Tennessee Nightingale." Be sure to visit the exhibit before it closes this month!

For more information, call 741-2692 or visit [www.tnmuseum.org](http://www.tnmuseum.org)

**New! Electrifying Times: How Power Transformed Our City**

*January 29-May 22, 2011*

*Nashville Public Library*

*615 Church Street*

*Courtyard Gallery*

*Main library hours: Tues-Fri 9-6; Sat 9-5; Sun 2-5 (closed Mondays)*

During the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, electricity dramatically changed the lives of urban and rural Nashvillians, Tennesseans and Americans. Come see this exhibit hosted by Nashville Public Library that highlights materials found in the Nashville Electric Service Public Relations Records (c. 1866-1989), a collection of archival photographs and documents that illuminates over 100 years of our city's history. Images of street cars, early downtown lights and early household appliances are featured. **Please join the Nashville Public Library for an opening reception on Saturday, January 29 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.** For more information, call 862-5782.

Note: The Nashville Railway and Light Company offices were located in the Watkins Building on the 600 block of Church Street on the site of today's (2010-11) Nashville Public Library.

**Save the Date!**

**30th Annual Nashville Conference on African-American History & Culture**

*Wednesday, February 9, 2011*

*8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

*Tennessee State University*

*Avon Williams Campus*

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Nashville Conference on African-American History and Culture will be held on February 9, 2011 at the downtown campus of Tennessee State University (10<sup>th</sup> and Charlotte). **This year's conference will commemorate**

**two historic events paramount in the African American struggle for freedom, both the Civil War and the 1961 Freedom Rides.** Featured speakers include genealogist John Baker, archaeologist Kevin Smith, and historians Carole Bucy and Learotha Williams; the conference will also include performances by jazz recording artist Dara Tucker and dramatists Sista Style Productions. Registration is \$20.00, and includes lunch. To receive a registration brochure by mail, please call the Metro Historical Commission at 862-7970.

Don't miss this award-winning event, sponsored by the Metro Historical Commission and Tennessee State University.

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The Metropolitan Historical Commission publishes this monthly newsletter to keep you informed on events and happenings at the MHC. If you have questions, comments, or news to pass along, please email [scarlett.miles@nashville.gov](mailto:scarlett.miles@nashville.gov), with E-NEWS in the subject line.

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